

AMENDMENT OF THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the Specification as follows:

On Page 19, amend the first and last paragraph as follows:

Fig. 2 is Figs. 2A and 2B set forth a schematic diagram of an illustrative embodiment of the consumer-product information collection, transmission and delivery system of the present invention shown embedded with the infrastructure of the global computer communications network known as the Internet, and comprising a plurality of data-synchronized Internet Product Directory (IPD) Servers connected to the infrastructure of the Internet, a UPC/URL Database Subsystem (i.e. UPC/URL Catalog) connected to one or more of the IPD Servers and one or more globally-extensive electronic data interchange (EDI) networks, a Web-based Document Server connected to at least one of the IPD Servers and the Internet infrastructure, a Web-based Document Administration Computer connected to the Web-based Document Server by way of a TCP/IP connection, a plurality of Internet Product-Information (IPI) Servers connected to the infrastructure of the Internet for serving consumer-product related information to consumers in retail stores and at home, a plurality of Client Subsystems connected to the infrastructure of the Internet and allowing manufacturers to transmit consumer-product related information to the Web-based Document Server for collection and retransmission to the IPD Servers, and a plurality of Client Subsystems connected to the infrastructure of the Internet and allowing consumers in retail stores and at home to request and receive consumer-product related information from the IPD Servers;

Fig. ~~2B~~ 2C is a schematic diagram illustrating the flow of information along the consumer-product supply and demand chain, including (i) the communication link extending between the information subsystems of manufacturers of UPC-encoded products and the centralized (or master) UPC Catalog Database Subsystem of the consumer-product information collection, transmission and delivery system of the present invention, (ii) the communication link extending between the UPC/URL Database Subsystem and the IPD Servers of the present invention, (iii) the communication link extending between the IPD Servers and in-store Client Subsystems of retailers, (iv) the communication link extending between the IPI Servers and the in-store Client Subsystems of retailers, (v) the communication link extending between the IPD

Servers and the Client Subsystems of consumers, and (vi) the communication link extending between the IPI Servers and the Client Subsystems of consumers;

On Page 25, amend the last paragraph as follows:

As shown in ~~Fig. 2~~ Figs. 2A and 2B, the consumer-product information collection, transmission and delivery system illustrated in Fig. 1 is realized as an arrangement of system components, namely: a central UPC/URL Database Subsystem 9 for storing and serving various types of consumer-product information to retailers and consumers alike (e.g., the name of the product's manufacturer; the Universal Product Code (UPC) assigned to the product by the manufacturer; one or more URLs specifying the location of information resources on the Internet at which particular kinds of information relating to the consumer-product can be found; merchandise classification; style number; tradename; information specifying the size, color and other relevant characteristics of the consumer-product, where applicable; ordering criteria; availability and booking dates, etc.); a globally-based (packet-switched) digital telecommunications network (such as the Internet) 10 having an infrastructure including Internet Service Providers (ISPs), Network Service Providers (NSPs), routers, telecommunication lines, channels, etc., for supporting packet-switched type digital data telecommunications using the TCP/IP networking protocol well known in the art; one or more Internet Product Finding Directory (IPD) Servers, each indicated by reference numeral 11 and being connected to the Internet at strategically different locations via the Internet infrastructure 10 and data-synchronized with each other in order that each such Server maintains mirrored a database structure as represented in Figs. 4A and 4B; a plurality of Internet Product-Information (IPI) Servers, each indicated by reference numeral 12 and being connected to the Internet via the Internet infrastructure; a plurality of User (or Client) Computers, each indicated by reference numeral 13, being connected to the Internet via the Internet infrastructure and available to consumers (C1, C2, C3,...,Ci); one or more data communication (i.e. EDI) networks 14, comprising data collection nodes 15 and communication links 16, operably connected to the centralized UPC/URL Database Subsystem 9, each Client Computer 13 available to a Manufacturer (M1, M2, M3,..., Mj) and Retailer (R1, R2, R3,..., Rk) within the retail supply and demand chain; a Web-based Document Server 30 connected to at least one of the IPD Servers 11

and the Internet infrastructure, for transferring documents and messages to remote Client Computer Systems during the registration of manufacturers and consumer products with the system hereof and periodically updating product-related information with the IPD Servers 11 in an automatic manner; and an Web-based Document Administration Computer 31 connected to the Web-based Document Server 30 by way of a TCP/IP connection 32, for administrating the registration of manufacturers and products with the system, initiating the transfer of consumer product related information (e.g. menu of URLs) between the remote Client Computer Systems and Web-Based Document Server 30, transferring such information to the IPD Servers 11, and maintaining local records of such information transfers and the like.

On Page 29, amend the last paragraph as follows:

In the illustrative embodiment of the present invention, the UPC Product-Information Subsystem 2 is realized using the UPC/URL Catalog Database Subsystem 9 and data communication networks 14 of the enabling technology platform shown in ~~Fig. 2~~ Figs. 2A and 2B. Preferably, the product procurement services delivered by the UPC/URL Catalog Database Subsystem 9 are provided by modifying the prior art QRSolutions UPC Catalog currently implemented by QuickResponse Services, Inc., so that this subsystem includes the database structures (i.e. information fields and data elements) of the IPD Database Server 11 which are neither found in or suggest by the prior art QRSolutions UPC Catalog. The structure and operation of the UPC/URL Catalog Database Subsystem and IPD Server of the present invention will be described in greater detail hereinafter. The information services supported by the UPC Product-Information Subsystem 3 include those provided by the prior art QRSolutions UPC Catalog, and also a number of additional information services that can be used to carry out Product Registration within the IPI finding and serving subsystem of the present invention. These additional information services will be described in greater detail hereinafter with reference to Fig. ~~2A~~ 2C.

On Page 30, amend the first and second paragraphs as follows:

The Electronic Trading Information Subsystem 4 is realized using the UPC/URL Catalog

Database Subsystem 9, Client Computer Systems 13 and data communication networks 14 of the enabling technology platform shown in ~~Fig. 2~~ Figs. 2A and 2B. Preferably, the inventory procurement services delivered by the Electronic Trading Subsystem 4 are provided by the prior art QRSolutions Econnect and Electronic Data Interchange Services currently being implemented by QuickResponse Services, Inc.

Sale Analysis and Forecasting Information Subsystem 5 is realized using information storage/processing center 1, Client Computer Systems 13, and the data communication networks 14 of the enabling technology platform shown in ~~Fig. 2~~ Figs. 2A and 2B. Preferably, the product inventory management services delivered by the Sale Analysis and Forecasting Information Subsystem 5 are provided by the prior art QRSolutions Sale Analysis and Forecasting Information Services currently being implemented by QuickResponse Services, Inc.

On Page 31, amend the first and second paragraphs as follows:

The Collaborative Replenishment Information Subsystem 4 is realized using information storage/processing center 17, Client Computer Systems 13 and the data communication networks 114 of the enabling technology platform shown in ~~Fig. 2~~ Figs. 2A and 2B. Preferably, the product inventory management services delivered by the Collaborative Replenishment Information Subsystem 6 are provided by the prior art QRSolutions Replenishment Services currently being implemented by QuickResponse Services, Inc.

The Transportation and Logistics Information Subsystem 7 is realized using information storage/processing center 17, Client Computer Systems 13, and the data communication networks 14 of the enabling technology platform shown in ~~Fig. 2~~ Figs. 2A and 2B. Preferably, the product distribution management services delivered by the Transportation and Logistics Information Subsystem 7 are provided by the prior art QRSolutions EDI and Logistics Management Services currently being implemented by QuickResponse Services, Inc.

On Page 37, amend the last paragraph as follows:

Each Client Computer Subsystem (hereinafter "Client System") 113 can be realized by any computing system employing operating system (OS) software (e.g. Macintosh, Windows

95, Windows NT, Unix, etc.) which supports an Internet browser program (e.g. Netscape Navigator, MicroSoft Internet Explorer, NCSC's Mosaic, etc.) which includes (1) Internet networking software that supports the TCP/IP networking protocol (required by HTTP, FTP and the like) and provides a GUI-based Web browser interface, and (2) Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) networking software that supports EDI between two or more Client Systems over the EDI network 14 illustrated in ~~Fig. 2~~ Figs. 2A and 2B. Alternatively, Client Systems may also be realized by any of the following systems: (i) a Newton MessagePad 130 (running the Newton 2.0 Operating System and NetHopper™ Internet Software); (ii) a Pippin™ computer system from Apple Computer, Inc.; (iii) a network computer (NC) that supports the Java™ programming language and Java applets expressed therewith; (iv) a Sony® WebTV Internet Terminal (supported by the WebTV Service provided by WebTV Network, Inc.); or the like. As shown in Fig. 1, each Client Computer is interfaced with an ISP 10A in a conventional manner. Each such Client System may be assigned a static IP address and a unique domain name on the Internet, or one may be dynamically assigned thereto by way of its ISP depending on its connectivity. Optionally, any Client System may include Web-site server software for creating and maintaining one or more hypermedia-type Web-sites in a manner well known in the art.

On Page 61, amend the second and third paragraphs as follows:

The first method illustrated in ~~Fig. 2~~ Figs. 2A and 2B involves by carrying out FTP between a Client System of the registering manufacturer (or its agent) Mi and an IPD Server in order to update the IPI Registrant Database associated therewith. This can be carried out by the manufacturer's officer or agent surfing to the IPI Website, selecting the Product Registration Model from the control strip, and then following the instructions displayed on the various screens of the Website in this mode. When using the first method, product UPCs, URLs and other information elements can be formatted within suitable Product Registration Forms and transmitted by FTP from the Client System or Database Server of a registering manufacturer to the IPD Server 11 so that the IPI Registrant Database thereof can be updated accordingly. The first method will be desirable typically when registering a few consumer-products.

The second method illustrated in Fig. 2A 2C, involves first carrying out EDI between a Client System of the registering manufacturer (or its agent) and the UPC/URL Database

Subsystem 9, and then carrying out FTP or SMTP between the Client System and an IPD Server in order to update the IPI Registrant Database maintained therein. The second method will be desirable when a manufacturer needs or desires to register a large number of consumer-products. The details of these information transmission methods will be described below.

On Page 64, amend the last paragraph as follows:

Preferably, the limited or restricted version of the UPC/URL database maintained by each registered manufacturer on its client system 13 is connected to the manufacturer's Internet Server 12i by a Common Gateway Interface (CGI) 40, or other suitable means, as shown in ~~Fig. 2~~ Figs. 2A and 2B. In this way, the manufacturer's limited version of the UPC/URL database can be made accessible to consumers world-wide from the manufacturer's Website which, in the illustrative embodiment, is assumed hosted on an Internet information server 12 that is similar to an IPI Server 12 described in detail hereinabove. In order to simplify the process of serving of the manufacturer's limited-version of the UPC/URL database on the WWW, it is preferred that the CGI 40, and input and output forms and methods for searching and the displaying the results from the limited-version UPC/URL database are predesigned for use with manufacturer's Internet Server 12i (taking into consideration its operating system and the like). This way, prior to registration the manufacturer need only make a selection of the type of customized WebDox Remote software it needs for its computing and Internet serving platform(s). Then, during software download, the WebDox Server 30 simply transmits the suitable version of the customized WebDox Remote software to the manufacturer so that it can create, maintain and serve (on the WWW) its limited version of the UPC/URL database in a turn-key manner.